



Women are not incubators for rent!

For immediate release

Montreal, March 27, 2018 - It is with dismay that we learned that a Liberal member of the House of Commons, Anthony Housefather, proposes to encourage the exploitation of women and the merchandizing of women's bodies. He wants women's bellies to sell like any other good. And he also wants to make the selling of children possible, just like any other good.

With his proposal to pay for surrogate mothers, MP Anthony Housefather demonstrates his total ignorance of the issues at hand and his contempt for human beings, including women and children, especially poor women, by claiming that surrogacy for the benefit of a sponsor can be a viable revenue option. It is certainly not the rich women who are going to bear babies for sponsoring parents!

The MP is presenting his proposal without debate as if it were a simple private bill, and yet it is about the hiring of uteruses and the trade of children, nothing less. Did we vote for that? A society which accepts that a child becomes the object of a contract based on the exploitation of women's bodies has lost sight of the inviolability of human life.

Surrogacy, slavery of modern times.

Carrying a child for sponsors cannot be trivialized as a choice like any other, stemming from the freedom to dispose of one's body. This representation is a lure. It is, on the contrary, a commitment to surrender to these sponsors all the decisions concerning her body for 9 months: what the woman can or cannot eat, if she can or cannot have sex, if she has access to abortion in the event of "too many" embryos, if a cesarean section is required, etc. Way too far from the freedom to dispose of one's body, while at the same time granting rights to sponsors ...

Children Desire Industry

Forget the notion of the woman who carries a child for her sister. Rather, it is about consolidating an Industry in Canada, something Mr Housefather fails to mention in his plea ... In the fall of 2017, the Government of Canada conducted a consultation on what it had defined as the Assisted Procreation Industry. And the vocabulary used testifies to the nature of the thing: products, product traceability, distributors, importers, caterers. It is an industry that hides behind the exploitation of the legitimate desire to have a child. It proposes solutions based on merchandizing that attack the dignity of women and children.

The desire for children does not give rights, even to those who have money. At a time when women join their voices to denounce abuses of all kinds of which they are victims and demand the respect of their dignity as persons, we cannot tolerate any rhetoric nor especially any practice which reduces women to be considered as incubators destined to assure descendancy to the privileged.

Signing contracts with a surrogate mother to have her surrender a child that she carried for nine months is the pinnacle of human life merchandizing.